

## ABSTRACT

A method for encoding and decoding digital moving picture signals which can decode subframes appropriately in relation to time if a part of a bit stream is missing or an error occurs in the bit stream, and can suppress degradation of a reproduced picture if decoding of a subframe including a picture in motion in relation to time becomes unfeasible. In the method for encoding and decoding digital moving picture signals of this invention, information for one frame is encoded correspondingly to a spatial hierarchy of a frame, subframes and blocks. A subframe time position number and a subframe space number are attached to an identifier of each of the subframe, thereby resuming appropriate decoding of the subframes immediately after a trouble if an error occurs. The subframe identifiers are placed at a certain interval in the bit stream so as to give a smaller size to a subframe including a block which is in motion and difficult to be encoded, thereby suppressing degradation of a reproduced picture if decoding of the subframe becomes unfeasible.

1. A method for encoding and decoding digital moving picture signals, comprising the steps of: encoding a frame of a digital moving picture signal into a bit stream in accordance with a spatial hierarchy of the frame, the frame being divided into subframes and blocks; attaching a subframe time position number and a subframe space number to an identifier of each of the subframes; and placing the subframe identifiers at a certain interval in the bit stream so as to give a smaller size to a subframe including a block which is in motion and difficult to be encoded, thereby suppressing degradation of a reproduced picture if decoding of the subframe becomes unfeasible.